

Minutes from April 28 meeting

Attending: Reza Abbaschian, Mark Matsumoto, Chinya Ravishankar, Albert Wang, Nosang Myung, Javier Garay, Guillermo Aguilar, Laxmi Bhuyan, Walid Najjar, Jay Farrell, Kambiz Vafai, Robert Haddon, Alex Balandin.

Minutes from the April 14 meeting were approved.

UC Competition for MPRI:

Reza led the discussion on MPRI, noting that the funding was \$6.5M, which was less than was available the last time. Among the items that were expected to go forward were renewals for UC Lite, and the UC Resources Center and Archives. There is greater emphasis on Social Sciences this time. Albert Wang gave a brief summary on the activities of UC Lite, which is the only MPRI led by UCR. There has been good progress on research and on demos. Reza encouraged all departments to compete.

Graduate education (Matsumoto)

There are 98 accepts for PhDs, and additional offers outstanding, so we are in good shape. There are 45 accepts from MS applicants, 15 international. An additional 30 MS applicants have indicated interest, but need to show financial support. Decisions are pending for 138 MS and 26 PhD applicants. Nosang Myung noted that the take rate for PhD applicants in his department was 65%, up from about 20% last year.

Undergraduate education (Ravishankar)

Ravi presented the latest data relating to freshman SIRs, showing 400 college-wide. Since a large number of SIRs appear in the last few days, the total is likely to grow significantly beyond current numbers. There were 25 transfer SIRs, and this number is certain to grow substantially, since the SIR deadline for transfers is more than a month away. Nosang asked about UNEX funding for the Brazilian students; Ravi will follow up. Reza mentioned the Tohoku proposal for summer students at UCR, and a discussion ensued about the funding model for the effort.

Honors Societies (Abbaschian)

Reza initiated a discussion on the value of having honors societies, and its benefits for our students, and urged all departments to pursue the establishment of at least one Honors Society in their respective disciplines. Jay Farrell gave a summary of the process involved, EE having recently established a chapter of HKN.

Department/Center Updates (All)

Mechanical Engr.: One offer has been accepted in Metallurgy (candidate is from ARO). There are two ongoing female recruitments. An open house was held for graduate students, and 14 attended. Around 10-12 accepted our offer. Kambiz Vafai and Javier Garay were congratulated on their promotions.

Electrical Engineering: Eric Yu has accepted our offer. Two additional senior recruitments are ongoing.

CNSE: Robert Haddon Gave an update on the status of MRSEC. GaTech has been eliminated, but Michigan plans to include a graphene component in their proposal.

POEM: Alex Balandin indicated that he had takes 8 students with him to the MRS meeting.

Bioengineering: Victor Rodgers noted that a new analyst is on board in the department. A graduate outreach event was held, with 15 students attending.

Computer Engineering: Walid Najjar reported that the recruitment for the CEN slot was ongoing.

Computer Science: Laxmi Bhuyan indicated that both faculty slots available to CS had been filled. The senior hire is under CAP review. Julian Neamtiu has achieved tenure. The CS advisory board meeting has been held.

Materials Science: Javier Garay observed that the areas of computational and functional materials are now covered. A successful open house was held for graduate students, with 70% accepting our offers. Javier also noted the value of taking graduate students to conferences, as Alex Balandin did recently. David Kisailus's student won the best poster award, and other students were also recognized. A recent PhD graduate in MSE has accepted a position at Pepperdine.

Chemical & Env. Engr: Nosang Myung reported that a lunch was recently held for a distinguished faculty candidate prospect from Drexel. There are also several other excellent candidates. The advisory board meeting is scheduled for May 30. The WCH user facility is up and running. Reza indicated that the campus has been approach for space to accommodate the potential hires in CEE/EE. Space will also be critical at the campus level, with the plan to hire 300 new faculty members. Pierce Hall remains the most attractive option. We could convert some dry labs in Bourns Hall into wet labs.

MS On-Line: Kambiz Vafai reported that conversations are planned with Pearson with regard to recruiting into MSOL. Reza noted that some revenues would be returned to faculty as income. A couple of additional specialty areas will be introduced next year. Kambiz noted the need to be cognizant of the level of mathematics required.

Reza reminded the group that an investiture ceremony was scheduled for the new endowed chairs on Friday at 4pm. The BCOE Board of Advisers meeting will be held on May 2. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the AQMD at CE-CERT is on May 21. The college meeting is scheduled for June 2.